



WE HAVE A WINNER!

CONGRATULATIONS to Debra Houston of Meridian Community Unit School District 101 for being the winner of ACT Now's \$20 Amazon gift card drawing! Thank you to everyone who participated in our Social Emotional Learning (SEL) in Out-of-School Time (OST) survey. The information you and your fellow OST program providers offered will be extremely valuable to the future of the SEL opportunities we develop.

Policy Updates

Rethinking Safety Campaign

In many communities across Illinois, the response to school safety concerns has been to “harden” schools with additional school resource officers, security guards, metal detectors, surveillance cameras, and other law enforcement strategies, creating unhealthy learning environments and criminalizing youth all across the state. In response, the Rethinking Safety Campaign is working to ensure that Illinois is using its educational resources to provide holistic health resources for students, families, and communities across the state of Illinois. To learn more, [click here](#).

Family & Community Partnerships

Toolkit: Partnering on Career & Technical Education

The Strengthening Career and Technical Education (CTE) for the 21st Century Act (Perkins V) was signed into law on July 31, 2018. The bipartisan legislation offers new opportunities to connect the work of afterschool and summer programs to state and local CTE initiatives. The [Afterschool Alliance](#) has created a [toolkit](#) to provide afterschool stakeholders and

advocates with specific guidance on how to utilize a number of new updates provided in Perkins V to improve the use of afterschool programming as a core strategy to improve workforce/career development programs. To access the toolkit, [click here](#).

For a list of previously listed policy updates, click [here](#).

Trainings and Events

ACT Now Trivia Night!

Grab your friends and join ACT Now for a brain busting evening of trivia, food, fellowship, and fun. Players have a chance to win a \$100 event gift card and various awesome raffle items! All money raised from this event will go towards supporting our work of advocating to legislators about the need for afterschool programs in Illinois and ensuring that quality afterschool programs exist all across the state! This event will be held in **Chicago on May 14th from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.** For more information or to register, [click here](#).

Community School Providers Meetings

ACT Now is continuing to hold meetings for community school providers to network with one another and learn more about the work of ACT Now in the Community Schools space. Participants will hear about policy updates, network with other providers, and receive a free professional development opportunity. Light refreshments provided. (See below for a schedule of upcoming meetings.)

Upcoming Community School Providers Meetings:

- **Chicago: May 1st (10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.)** at the ACT Now Offices. Topics: Policy Updates and Family Engagement. Speakers: Susan Stanton (ACT Now), Sarah Ogeto (UIC), Eric Werge (YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago). **To register, [click here](#).**
- **Downstate (Telenet): May 6th (10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.)** via web conference. Topics: Policy Updates, Messaging, and Outcomes/Evaluation. Speakers: Susan Stanton (ACT Now) and Joie

Frankovich (WeGo Together for Kids). **To register, [click here](#).**

- **Wheaton: May 14th (10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.)** at the Metropolitan Family Services office. Topics: Policy Updates, Messaging, and Needs Assessments. Speakers: Susan stanton (ACT Now) and HannahMngwamba (Metropolitan Family Services). **To register, [click here](#).**

Youth Development, Programming, & Activities

Summer Brain Games

Join the Museum of Science and Industry (MSI) this summer to learn how you can use their Brain Games to make science fun and accessible for kids and educators. Learn about engineering, physics and exciting STEM activities, such as making a kite, starting a band with DIY musical instruments, creating a kaleidoscope, and more! MSI is offering two upcoming SBG workshops (see schedule below).

Upcoming Brain Games Workshops

- **Chicago:** April 30th - 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. ([Register for the Wait List](#))
- **Bloomington:** May 2nd - 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. ([Register Here](#))

To view ACT Now's calendar of events, [click here](#).

Youth Opportunities

ISU Summer Programs

Illinois State University is offering summer programs for high school students interested in careers in quantitative analytics, actuarial science, and insurance. For more information, [click here](#).

Affordable Home Internet

Internet Essentials from [Comcast](#) gives access to affordable, high-speed internet to low-income families. To be eligible, households must have at least one child who is eligible for the National School Lunch Program, receive HUD housing assistance or are a low-income veteran receiving state and/or federal assistance. To learn more about helping your youth have access to the internet at home, [click here](#).

For an archive of our previously listed Youth Opportunities, click [here](#)

Funding Opportunities

Breakfast After the Bell Grants

[Rise and Shine Illinois](#) will award up to \$5,000 per school to support and enhance initiatives facilitating Breakfast After the Bell delivery models. Grants are to be used to purchase approved equipment, materials, and supplies. For more information and to apply, [click here](#).

Mentoring Opportunities for Youth Initiative

The [U.S. Department of Justice](#) is seeking applications for funding under the FY19 [Mentoring Opportunities for Youth Initiative](#). Specifically created in response to the opioid crisis, the program furthers the Department's mission by supporting mentoring programs to reduce juvenile delinquency, drug abuse, victimization, and high-risk behaviors such as truancy. Applications are due **April 22nd**. To learn more, [click here](#).

For an archive of our previously listed Funding Opportunities, [click here](#).

Resources for Providers

Administration

Tracking & Reporting Labor

Accounting for the labor costs involved in grant-funded activities can be fraught with difficulty. This white paper examines why tracking and reporting labor is important, the challenges involved in doing this accurately, and how an automated workforce management solution could help your program meet these challenges much more effectively. To learn more, [click here](#).

Youth Development, Programming, & Activities

Report: Adverse Childhood Experiences & School-Aged Youth

OST programs can play a role in mitigating and preventing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), which are disruptive to a school-age child's academic and social development. This report is published by the [National Center on Afterschool and Summer Enrichment \(NCASE\)](#) to build awareness of research and promising practices in the field of school-age child care. To read the full report, [click here](#).

Call for Resources

Do you have valuable resources, stories, or best practices to share with the afterschool field? Please click [here](#) to share your resources with ACT Now and we will disseminate them (via our newsletter and website) to other providers across the state! If you have any questions, please contact Faith Knocke (ACT Now - Youth Development Associate) KnockeF@metrofamily.org

NOTE: We are now sorting our trainings and resources by the Core Areas in the Illinois Statewide Afterschool Quality Standards to promote better understanding and implementation of the Standards. Dark blue headings denote a Core Area. To learn more about the Quality Standards, click [here](#).

Do you find the ACT Now newsletter to be a quality resource for your program? If so, please consider making a contribution to ACT Now so that we may continue to provide free resources to afterschool program providers, and, in turn, create a brighter future for the state of afterschool programs in Illinois!

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Contact Us

ACT Now Coalition
One North Dearborn, Suite 1000
Chicago, Illinois 60602
www.actnowillinois.org
312-877-0725